



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 9, 2000

H.R. 4318 **Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 26, 2000

H.R. 4318 would direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana, effective on the date that the agency determines that it has acquired enough land within the boundaries of the proposed refuge to be managed efficiently. The bill would authorize the agency to acquire land, water, and related interests within the proposed 50,000-acre refuge. In addition to managing this acreage, the agency would restore native species and ecosystems and provide opportunities for environmental education and for recreational uses such as hunting and fishing. The bill would require the agency to construct and operate a wildlife interpretation and education center at the new refuge. For the purposes of acquiring, developing, and operating the refuge, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever sums are necessary.

The cost of implementing H.R. 4318 would depend on the outcome of formal property appraisals and on the degree of restoration and development undertaken at the proposed refuge. Based on information provided by the USFWS, CBO estimates that it would cost between \$70 million and \$100 million over the next 10 years to implement this legislation, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. We estimate that about 60 percent of the funds would be needed to acquire about 50,000 acres. The agency would use between \$20 million and \$30 million to restore habitat and species within the new lands and to construct a wildlife interpretation and education center. During the acquisition and development period, managing the new acreage and related construction projects would cost \$8 million over the 10 years. After this period, when all land has been acquired and developed, we estimate that the agency would spend between \$3 million and \$5 million annually to operate it and to make payments to local governments under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 4318 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.